

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00253 181224Z
ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0253

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR UNGA GQ MP
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONDS TO US COMPLAINT OVER RAMPHUL'S
VOTE ON GUAM RESOLUTION

REF: A. 76 STATE 297268, B. 76 USUN 5995

1. AT HIS SUGGESTION I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER, SIR HAROLD WALTER, ON MARCH 17. HE WISHED TO INFORM ME OF WHAT HE HAD DONE ABOUT OUR COMPLAINT OVER THE MAURITIAN VOTE IN THE UNGA ON THE GUAM RESOLUTION (REFTELS), AND ESPECIALLY THE BEHAVIOR OF THE MAURITIAN UN REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR RADHA RAMPHUL.

2. SIR HAROLD SAID THAT HE HAD SENT A COPY OF MY LETTER OF DECEMBER 9, 1976 ON THIS SUBJECT TO AMBASSADOR RAMPHUL IN NEW YORK AND REQUESTED THAT HE COMMENT ON IT, SPECIFICALLY ON THE COMPLAINT THAT HE HAD GONE BACK ON HIS WORD GIVEN TO THE US MISSION TO THE UN THAT MAURITIUS WOULD ABSTAIN ON THE RESOLUTION. SIR HAROLD SAID THAT RAMPHUL HAD NOT REPLIED TO HIM BUT HAD DICTATED AN ANSWER TO HIS FIRST SECRETARY WHICH THE LATTER HAD SENT HERE IN THE FORM OF A LETTER TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PERMANENT SECRETARY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER THEN READ FROM THE FIRST SECRETARY'S LETTER THREE SENTENCES WHICH SAID IN EFFECT
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THAT AMBASSADOR RAMPHUL HAD NEVER PROMISED THE US DELEGATION HE WOULD ABSTAIN ON THE RESOLUTION, THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH MR. JAY KATZEN OF USUN AND THE LATTER HAD BEEN "EMBARRASSED" OVER THE FACT THAT RAMPHUL WAS IN POSSESSION OF THE TEXT OF AMBASSADOR KEELEY'S LETTER. THE LETTER FURTHER STATED THAT RAMPHUL PLANNED TO LODGE A COMPLAINT WITH AMBASSADOR SCRANTON OVER OUR ACTION OF COMPLAINING TO THE MAURITIAN FOREIGN

MINISTRY.

3. SIR HAROLD STATED FLATLY, "RAMPHUL IS A LIAR AND EVERYBODY KNOWS IT. HIS RECORD OF BEHAVIOR IN THE PAST WOULD CONFIRM THAT HE MOST LIKELY WENT BACK ON HIS WORD AS YOU ALLEGE." SIR HAROLD WAS QUITE INCENSED THAT RAMPHUL HAD NOT SHOWN THE COURTESY OF REPLYING TO HIM DIRECTLY BUT HAD USED HIS FIRST SECRETARY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE HAD JUST SENT A "ROCKET" TO RAMPHUL IN NEW YORK STATING THAT HE WOULD NOT STAND FOR ANY "IMPERTINENCE" FROM ANY OF HIS AMBASSADORS AND THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ARRANGE THE DISMISSAL OF ANYONE WHO CONTRAVENED HIM. SIR HAROLD THEN COMMENTED, "I AM MUCH STRONGER NOW THAN I WAS BEFORE. IF THEY FIRE ME, THE GOVERNMENT WILL FALL." WALTER SAID THAT HE HAD INFORMED PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM OF THE CONTENT OF HIS "ROCKET" TO RAMPHUL.

4. IN RESPONSE I NOTED THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON FOR MR. KATZEN TO BE "EMBARRASSED" SINCE THE SUBSTANCE OF MY LETTER OF DECEMBER 9 ABOUT THE GUAM RESOLUTION HAD ABVIOUSLY BEEN DRAFTED BY USUN, AND THEN TRANSMITTED TO ME BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO DELIVER IT TO THE GOM. FURTHERMORE, IT WAS OBVIOUSLY OUR INTENTION THAT THE GOM BRING OUR COMPLAINT TO THE ATTENTION OF AMBASSADOR RAMPHUL. KEELEY

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Message Attributes

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